

Burbank to Los Angeles Project Section MAIN STREET GRADE SEPARATION



What are the rail crossing improvements proposed at Main Street?

There are currently two sets of railroad tracks at-grade (street level) on both sides of the Los Angeles River, crossing Main Street which are used by Metrolink, Amtrak and Union Pacific trains. With the introduction of high-speed rail service and expected increases in Metrolink and Amtrak train service, Main Street is proposed to be grade separated to improve both safety and vehicle traffic. Main Street is proposed to be raised on a higher-level bridge which goes over both sets of railroad tracks and the Los Angeles River (similar to the Spring Street and Broadway bridges to the north). The new bridge would start rising past Sotello Street on the West Bank, and return to street-level before Clover Street on the East Bank. The existing Main Street Bridge would stay in place, and could potentially be used by bicycles and pedestrians in conjunction with the Los Angeles River Path.

Why is it being considered?

Passenger trains through the Main Street crossing are projected to more than triple by 2040 with the introduction of high-speed rail service and increases in Metrolink and Amtrak train service. This would require the rail crossing arms to go down more frequently, significantly increasing the traffic wait time at the at-grade rail intersection during peak hours.

Due to the increase in rail activity and traffic impacts in the area, the Authority has included a grade separation at Main Street in the Draft EIR/EIS for the B-LA section. This does not mean it will be constructed before high-speed train service is introduced in the corridor, rather, it will be environmentally cleared for when/if a grade crossing is deemed necessary and when funding becomes available.

What are the anticipated improvements of a grade separation at Main Street?

- → Enhances Safety and Access. Would enhance safety and access at a crossing that is vital to vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians (including students for the nearby schools), rail passengers and the surrounding businesses and residential neighborhoods. The proposed grade separation eliminates the potential for vehicle/pedestrian-train collisions for all trains in the corridor.
- → Improves Traffic. Avoids train and vehicular at-grade crossing conflicts and eliminates the need for vehicles to stop when trains are passing through Main Street crossings.
- → Reduces Noise. By raising the road above the train tracks, crossing bells and train horns will no longer be needed for train crossings.
- → Improves Air Quality. Minimizes the idling time of vehicles at the rail crossing.
- → Provides Secure Emergency Access. Provides for emergency vehicle/first responder access at all times.

How are construction and operational impacts being addressed?

The Authority is committed to working with local stakeholders to minimize impacts to the surrounding area during final design stages of the crossing. Furthermore, the Authority recently released the Draft EIR/EIS for the Burbank to LA Project Section which is available for public review and comment at www.hsr.ca.gov until August 31. Please see the meeting details page for commenting instructions. We encourage you to submit your comments on the Burbank to LA Project Section and the proposed grade separation at Main Street, particularly any impacts that should be considered. Feedback received from the community as part of the Draft EIR/EIS public circulation process will be considered and responded to as part of the Final EIR/EIS.







